

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/747,495

Examiner

Blaine Basom

Applicant(s)

SCOTT, JOHAN

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment, received 4/29/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18, 23, 24, 28-46, 50-57, 64 and 73-81.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alfred A. Fressola on 7/7/2005.

The application has been amended as follows, with markings indicating the changed portions:

In claim 16, the phrase, "wherein the function display regions are irregularly disposed in the display," has been changed as follows: "wherein the functional display regions are irregularly disposed in the display,".

In claim 17, the phrase, "defining a second mesh of third and fourth sets of spaced lines, wherein the third set of spaced lines extend in a predetermined third direction and the fourth set of spaced lines extend in the predetermined third transverse direction," has been changed as follows: "defining a second mesh of third and fourth sets of spaced lines, wherein the third set of spaced lines extend in a predetermined third direction and the fourth set of spaced lines extend in the ~~predetermined third transverse direction~~ a predetermined fourth transverse direction,"

Art Unit: 2173

In each of claims 29 and 34, the phrase, "further comprising arranging the nodes at the intersections of a first set of spaced lines extending a first predetermined direction and a second set of spaced lines extending in a predetermined second transverse direction" has been changed as follows: "~~further comprising arranging the nodes at the intersections of a~~ wherein the first set of spaced lines extending in a first predetermined direction and a the second set of spaced lines extending in a predetermined second transverse direction".

In claim 54, the phrase,

--selecting, for each functional display region, a one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

determining points intermediate of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--

has been changed as follows:

--selecting, for each functional display region, ~~a~~ one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

determining ~~points-intermediate~~ points of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--.

In claim 55, the phrase, "determining points intermediate of said overlap lines" has been changed as follows: "determining ~~points-intermediate~~ points of said overlap lines".

In claim 64, the following passage:

--A method of configuring a mesh, the method comprising:

providing a first set of spaced lines extending in a first predetermined direction
and

providing a second set of spaced lines extending in a second, transverse
predetermined direction;

wherein providing the first set of spaced lines includes:

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the second
direction for a first functional display region,

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the second
predetermined direction for a second functional display region,

obtaining an intermediate co-ordinate value in dependence on said values, and

providing a first mesh line in said first direction defined by said intermediate co-
ordinate value;

wherein providing the second set of spaced lines includes:

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the first
predetermined direction for a third functional display region,

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the first
predetermined direction for a second functional display region,

obtaining an intermediate co-ordinate value in dependence on said values, and

providing a second mesh line in the second direction defined by said intermediate
co-ordinate value

said method further comprising: --

Art Unit: 2173

has been changed as follows:

--A method of configuring a mesh comprising first and second intersecting sets of spaced mesh lines for defining paths of travel for a focus on a display, the method comprising:

providing ~~a~~the first set of spaced lines extending in a first predetermined direction and

providing ~~a~~the second set of spaced lines extending in a second, transverse predetermined direction;

wherein providing the first set of spaced lines includes:

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the second direction for a first functional display region,

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the second predetermined direction for a second functional display region,

obtaining an intermediate co-ordinate value in dependence on said values, and

providing a first mesh line in said first direction defined by said intermediate co-ordinate value which passes through said first and second functional display regions;

wherein providing the second set of spaced lines includes:

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the first predetermined direction for ~~a third~~the first functional display region,

determining minimum and maximum co-ordinate values along the first predetermined direction for ~~a second~~ a third functional display region,

obtaining an intermediate co-ordinate value in dependence on said values, and

providing a second mesh line in the second direction defined by said intermediate co-ordinate value which passes through said first and third functional display regions;
said method further comprising: --

In each of claims 73, 77, and 80, the phrase,

--means for selecting, for each functional display region, a one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

means for determining points intermediate of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--

has been changed as follows:

--means for selecting, for each functional display region, ~~a~~-one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

means for determining ~~points~~-intermediate points of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--.

In claim 74, the phrase, “to select, for each functional display region, a one overlap along said second predetermined direction so as to provide a second set of selected overlaps; to determine points intermediate of said overlap lines for each of said second set of selected overlaps so as to provide a second set of intermediate points;” has been changed as follows: “to select, for each functional display region, ~~a~~-one overlap along said second predetermined direction so as to provide a second set of selected overlaps; to determine ~~points~~-intermediate points of said overlap

Art Unit: 2173

lines for each of said second set of selected overlaps so as to provide a second set of intermediate points;"

In claim 79, the phrase,

--means for configuring a plurality of spaced nodes so that the focus makes a step movement from one node to another thereof in response to user actuation, such that, for a given set of functional display regions,

means for determining a position of each functional display region along a first predetermined direction and along a second transverse predetermined direction,

means for generating a first set of spaced lines extending in the first predetermined direction, arranging the first set of lines in dependence upon the positions of the functional display regions along the second predetermined direction such that each lines passes through at least one functional display region,--

has been changed as follows:

--means for configuring a plurality of spaced nodes so that the focus makes a step movement from one node to another thereof in response to user actuation, ~~such that, for a given set of functional display regions,~~

means for determining a position of each functional display region along a first predetermined direction and along a second transverse predetermined direction,

means for generating a first set of spaced lines extending in the first predetermined direction, ~~arranging the first set of lines arranged~~ in dependence upon the positions of the

Art Unit: 2173

functional display regions along the second predetermined direction such that each line passes through at least one functional display region,--.

In claim 81, the phrase,

--for selecting, for each functional display region, a one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

for determining points intermediate of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--

has been changed as follows:

-- for selecting, for each functional display region, a one overlap along said first predetermined direction so as to provide a first set of selected overlaps;

for determining ~~points~~-intermediate points of said overlap lines for each of said first set of selected overlaps so as to provide a first set of intermediate points;--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18, 23-24, 28-46, 50-57, 64, 73-81 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 23, 54-57, and 64 are allowed for the reasons presented in the previous Office Action. As claims 73-77, 80, and 81 comprise similar features to claim 54, each of these claims is considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 54 is allowed.

Regarding independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 24, 28, 33, 36, 43, 44, 45, 46, 78, and 79, the prior art generally teaches configuring a mesh of a first set of spaced lines extending

Art Unit: 2173

in one direction and a second set of spaced lines extending in a second transverse direction, with nodes at the intersections, to provide for focus movement among functional display regions, such as icons, buttons, or other graphical widgets, within a displayed interface. In response to a directional user input, the focus moves from one node to an adjacent node within the mesh corresponding to the direction of the directional input. In the prior art, however, the lines of the first and second sets, and accordingly the positions of the nodes at the intersections, are generally equally spaced apart, so that the focus moves the same incremental distance in response to each directional user input. The claimed invention is novel in that it expresses that the first and second sets of spaced lines are positioned according to the locations of displayed functional display regions, and may therefore not be equally spaced.

As claims 2-6, 11-15, 50-53 depend on allowed claim 1, and include all of the limitations of allowed claim 1, these claims are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 1 is allowed. Claims 29-32 depend on allowed claim 28, and include all of the limitations of allowed claim 28, and therefore, these claims are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 28 is allowed. As claims 34-35 depend on allowed claim 33, and include all of the limitations of allowed claim 33, these claims are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 33 is allowed. Claims 37-42 depend on allowed claim 36, and include all of the limitations of allowed claim 36, and therefore, these claims are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 36 is allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2173

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

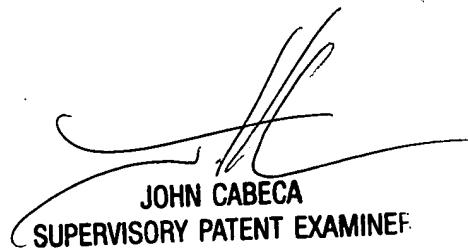
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

btb


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100